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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Edgar H. Reeder, Chairman

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George A. Morrison, Commissioner

FL. 228.



MARCH, 1962

Upward Trend Continues In Industrial Employment

Non-farm employment during February set a record for that month according to estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. February non-farm employment was estimated at 157,700 after a seasonal decline of 400 from the January employment total. Employment this year is 2,900 above February, 1961, and a substantial 5,700 above the ten-year February average of 152,000. The seasonal decline of 400 workers from January to February this year is mild compared with former years. January to February declines usually range from 1,200 to 3,000 or more depending upon the severity of weather conditions.

Four Industries Exceed Last Year

Four major industrial groups showed gains in employment totals over last year, two recorded slight declines, and one remained the same. Payrolls of construction contractors were 2,300 above last February chiefly as a result of work on federal projects. Other gains were in government, up 600; service industries, up 300; and finance, insurance, and real estate, up 100. Employment advances in these groups were sufficient to outweigh losses in the transportation, utilities and communications group, down 300; and in the mining group, down 100. Employment in all manufacturing industries, at 18,700, remained the same as a year ago.

Qualified Miners in Demand

Expansion of metal mining operations at Butte has created a demand for experienced

WINTER EMPLOYMENT DECLINE ABOUT OVER; BACK TO WORK SEASON READY TO BEGIN

The grip of winter which limits and depresses labor market patterns about five months of every year left 20,629 jobseekers registered at the state's 22 local employment offices at the end of February. The total was down a scant 300 from January but was 2,800 fewer than February of last year. The ten-year average of jobseekers for the month of February is 17,820. New job applicants during February were counted at 3,301 compared with 3,176 a year ago.

Good Trends Prevail

Industrial employment so far this year has exceeded comparable periods of a year ago. Despite some temporary weather-caused interruptions in outdoor work, including construction and lumbering, labor market activity remained at good levels. Business at main street establishments was generally good with the exception of some farm areas where reduced farm income, because of last year's drought, held consumer spending in check. The outlook on the farm front is more optimistic for this year, but the results will not show until after the harvests next fall.

The first spring trends of rising employment usually occur in late March. At that time, employment in trade and service industries; construction, lumbering, and logging; railroads; forest, irrigation, and farm services starts to advance. The direction of spring and summer employment patterns looks good. But the problem of some unemployment will remain. There just won't be enough jobs for everyone who wants to work.

The improved job situation this year is reflected in increased job orders from employers and more workers placed in jobs. Industrial employers listed 1,941 job openings with the state's 22 local employment offices during February, an increase of 5.7 percent over last year. Workers placed on jobs by employment service offices totaled 1,751, an increase of 14.4 percent over February, 1961.

and qualified hard rock contract miners. Although Butte is an area of substantial and persistent labor surplus, many of the unemployed are in occupations outside the mining industry. Many qualified miners have left the Butte area following cutbacks in mining which began in mid 1957. It now becomes necessary to go outside the Butte area in search for these workers.

Smelter Employment Advances

Recall of smeltermen to employment at Anaconda and Great Falls exhibited good trends. Hiring was most active at Anaconda where all former employees were expected to be back to work by mid-March and some new hiring was anticipated. Hiring at the Great Falls smelter was on a lesser scale, but the upward trend was expected to continue.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Jan 1962	2) Dec 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961	Jan. 1962	Dec. 1961	Jan. 1961
3) All Manufacturing.....	3.2	2.3	2.8	2.2	1.0	1.7	3.9	4.0	3.9	1.1	1.0	.8	2.0	2.2	2.4
Durable Goods.....	4.1	2.1	3.6	2.8	1.0	2.1	4.7	5.1	5.1	1.2	1.1	.9	2.4	2.9	3.3
Primary Metal.....	2.4	1.7	4.7	.1	.1	3.7	2.5	2.6	5.6	.3	.6	.7	.7	.6	3.5
3) Nondurable Goods.....	1.6	2.5	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	2.5	2.0	1.7	.8	.8	.7	1.3	.8	.9
All Mining.....	7.9	5.3	2.9	3.7	1.5	2.0	5.6	4.8	12.7	2.0	1.6	1.0	1.9	.5	10.2
Metal Mining.....	5.5	5.2	1.4	.4	.2	.4	4.5	6.8	18.1	2.0	1.9	.6	.8	.7	16.0

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time. 2) Figures previously revised on more complete returns.
3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Mar. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(477 jobseekers, 81 new, 321 men, 156 women). Increased activity at smelter resulted in 60 worker callbacks. All former workers with re-employment rights expected to be back to work by April 1. Current smelter employment about 2,250. Trends in other industries still slow chiefly as result of weather conditions.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,234 jobseekers, 542 new, 2,348 men, 886 women). February employment in construction, oil fields, and other outdoor industries moved up and down in response to changing weather conditions. Work on \$1 million highway interchange started. Contract let for \$12 million sewer project. Yellowtail Dam employment at 200 largely in tunnel operations. Changeable trends in Roundup coal mining operations with intermittent layoffs of 50 miners. Trade and service industries holding up well, but a few small business closures noted. Spring farm employment picture looks good, but present surplus of workers expected to continue next 30 days.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(787 jobseekers, 152 new, 587 men, 200 women). Good trends evident in most industries despite some temporary weather-caused suspensions in outdoor activities. Logging and sawmill operations expected to keep steady pace. Upswing in trade and service employment evident with start of spring season. Idle cement plant expected to reopen mid March.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,705 jobseekers, 270 new, 1,074 men, 631 women). Mining employment up with expansion of zinc operations as result of firmer market prices. Start of construction of copper concentrating plant and interstate highway section slated for early April. Trade and service trends fairly stable for winter season. Calving and lambing provided farm jobs with more to come as spring work season begins.

CULBANK—(495 jobseekers, 89 new, 377 men, 118 women). Cold weather put a damper on most labor market activity during February. Practically no building construction existed. Oil field work slowed considerably with only one rig active. Sheep shearing, livestock feeding, and general maintenance comprised bulk of farm work.

DILLON—(251 jobseekers, 64 new, 192 men, 59 women). Work on Clark Canyon Dam main construction project with about 130 employed. Other projects limited to small commercial units and remodeling. Twenty new homes on early building agenda. Bridge and highway construction halted.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

	Feb. 1962	Jan. 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb. Avg. 1953-62
Industrial Employment	157,700	158,100	154,800	152,000
New Job Applicants	3,301	3,984	3,176	3,666
Job Applicants, End of Month	20,627	20,916	23,445	17,820
	Mar. 2 1962	Feb. 2 1962	Mar. 3 1961	Avg. 1st Mar. Wk. 1958-62
Insured Unemployment, Week of				
New and Renewal Claims	1,674	1,474	1,469	1,601
Unemployed Weeks Filed	11,781	12,672	18,071	16,007
Total Unemployment Claims	13,455	14,146	19,540	17,611

Most trade and service industries still passive.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(616 jobseekers, 96 new, 494 men, 122 women). Outdoor work reduced substantially with completion of some air base projects and postponement of others until favorable weather. Seventy construction workers presently on air base projects with additional 300 government civilian workers employed in base operations. Main street business shows effects of reduced farm income and construction payrolls decline. Present farm hiring trends poor.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(293 jobseekers, 61 new, 227 men, 66 women). Despite mild weather, no construction starts planned until after April 1. Oil field activity dropped with some operators moving to other areas. Rumors persist about increased oil exploration and drilling, but future plans are cloaked in secrecy. Main street establishments and public utility firms provided most February job orders.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(3,040 jobseekers, 403 new, 2,155 men, 885 women). Trade firms and missile site contractors provided most February job orders. Most construction projects on unsteady schedules as weather permitted. Good hiring trends continue in white collar classifications.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(586 jobseekers, 65 new, 458 men, 128 women). Steady trends prevailed in lumber industries with good demand for timber fallers and other workers. Spring breakup conditions will curtail field operations in March, but mill work should continue unchecked from log stockpiles. Trade and construction hiring also advanced during February.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(750 jobseekers, 86 new, 638 men, 112 women). Cold weather cut hiring during February, but trends appear brighter as weather improves. Start of construction on building and road projects expected to pick up soon. Trends in trade and service employment still slow.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(846 jobseekers,

147 new, 597 men, 249 women). Weather conditions forced temporary suspensions of work on interstate highway project, cement plant, Fort Harrison expansion, and others. New shopping center completely enclosed with interior work progressing well; completion scheduled April 1. February labor demand mostly for clerical and sales workers. Shortage of experienced stenographers persists.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,882 jobseekers, 134 new, 1,395 men, 487 women). Stepped-up activity in outdoor work, with exception of logging, brought first seasonal drop in unemployment totals. Logging operations reduced by early spring breakup conditions. Two sawmills resumed operations during month. Future employment outlook brightened by plans to bring natural gas to Flathead Valley. No farm hiring during Feb.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(385 jobseekers, 63 new, 313 men, 72 women). Construction and trade industries accounted for more than half of February hires. Job placements down seasonally from January but above year ago, chiefly as result of missile site projects. Farm hiring starting to rise with good spring prospects.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(548 jobseekers, 49 new, 395 men, 153 women). Highway projects, building construction, and logging activities curbed during month because of inclement weather. A few railroad layoffs noted, bringing curtailment to 24 workers since first of year. Seasonal lull in trade and service establishments, but upswing noted at month's end. Farm hiring good with demands for ranch hands and farm couples.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(455 jobseekers, 39 new, 394 men, 61 women). Labor market patterns not too active, but on par with year ago. Most outside work on limited scale with no appreciable upturn seen until weather improves. Good schedule of road construction awaits resumption.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,840 jobseekers, 407 new, 1,211 men, 629 women). February job hiring over

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1951	14.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1952	150.6	149.6	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1953	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1954	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1955	151.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1956	153.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1957	151.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1958	156.9	151.8	156.0	159.5	164.6	172.9	175.2	176.6	171.6	171.6	167.3	164.2	166.2
1959	158.1	157.7**											

*Compiled from data on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Mar. 1

year ago sparked by good trends in fields of construction, trade, and lumber industries. Construction of city sewage system and highway improvement projects awaits better weather. Work on downtown highway bridge making fairly good progress.

POLSON—(710 jobseekers, 337 new, 462 men, 248 women). Stability of sawmill and plywood mill employment adds up to good labor market picture. \$34 million on construction agenda including new super market, sewage lagoon, and elementary school building. Area Indians registering for employment in connection with reservation redevelopment program.

SHELBY—(430 jobseekers, 56 new, 311 men, 119 women). Favorable weather during part of month allowed start of some construction projects and accounted for increased activity in oil fields. Four new building projects and road construction awaiting better weather. Farm hiring stepped up considerably with start of sheep shearing and other farm work.

SIDNEY—(379 jobseekers, 64 new, 344 men, 35 women). Labor market patterns generally passive, but fairly good employment trends in main street establishments. Building construction practically non-existent, but some small repair and remodeling projects in progress. Early spring farm work including calving, lambing, and sheep shearing on a limited basis.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(371 jobseekers, 48 new, 315 men, 56 women). Shut-down of logging operations common throughout the month because of weather conditions. Mill employment fairly stable after some temporary interruptions. Building construction chiefly in shape of small remodeling projects. Employment at stone quarries at good levels. Forest and irrigation service crews to be expanded mid-March.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(547 jobseekers, 48 new, 449 men, 98 women). Construction employment down due to completion of some commercial and residential projects. New project starts dependent on weather. Closure of two cafes and staff reductions at a few retail stores adversely affected main street employment. Two oil rigs active in area with no change in employment seen next 30 days. Only light demand for farm help.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Feb. 1962 (2)	Jan. 1962 (3)	Feb. 1961	Jan. '62 to Feb. '62	Feb. '61 to Feb. '62
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	157,700	158,100	154,800	— 400	2,900
Manufacturing	18,700	19,200	18,700	— 500	00
Durable goods.....	11,700	11,700	11,700	00	00
Lumber and timber products.....	6,800	6,700	6,700	100	100
Primary metals.....	3,500	3,500	3,600	00	100
Other (4).....	1,400	1,500	1,400	— 100	00
Nondurable goods.....	7,000	7,500	7,000	— 500	00
Food and kindred products.....	3,600	4,100	3,700	— 500	100
Printing and publishing.....	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Petroleum refining.....	800	800	900	00	100
Other (5).....	900	900	700	00	200
Mining	6,800	6,900	6,900	— 100	— 100
Metal mining.....	4,000	4,000	4,000	00	00
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	700	800	700	— 100	00
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,100	2,100	2,200	00	100
Contract Construction	9,600	9,300	7,300	300	2,300
Contractors, building construction.....	2,500	2,400	2,700	100	200
Contractors, other than building.....	3,800	3,700	1,700	100	2,100
Contractors, special trade.....	3,300	3,200	2,900	100	400
Transportation and utilities	17,300	17,400	17,600	— 100	— 300
Interstate railroads.....	7,800	7,900	8,100	— 100	— 300
Transportation except railroads.....	3,700	3,700	3,600	00	100
Utilities including communication.....	5,800	5,800	5,900	00	100
Trade	37,200	37,300	37,200	— 100	00
Wholesale trade.....	8,200	8,200	8,200	00	00
Retail trade.....	29,000	29,100	29,000	— 100	00
General merchandise and apparel.....	5,300	5,400	5,500	— 100	200
Food stores.....	4,800	4,800	4,700	00	100
Eating and drinking establishments.....	6,700	6,700	6,700	00	00
Automotive and filling stations.....	5,700	5,600	6,000	100	300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,500	6,600	6,100	— 100	400
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,800	6,600	— 100	100
Services and miscellaneous	22,200	22,100	21,900	100	300
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	2,400	2,400	2,300	00	100
Personal services.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Other (6).....	17,800	17,700	17,600	100	200
Government	39,200	39,100	38,600	100	600
Federal.....	10,000	10,100	9,600	— 100	400
State and local.....	29,200	29,000	29,000	200	200
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	22,000	21,800	20,200	200	1,800
Manufacturing.....	3,400	3,400	3,100	00	300
Contract construction.....	2,800	2,600	2,000	200	800
Transportation and utilities.....	2,000	2,000	2,000	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	5,300	5,300	5,100	00	200
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	4,600	4,600	4,400	00	200
Government.....	3,900	3,900	3,600	00	300
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	22,600	22,800	22,500	— 200	100
Manufacturing.....	2,900	3,300	2,900	— 400	00
Contract construction.....	1,000	900	1,300	100	300
Transportation and utilities.....	2,800	2,700	2,700	100	100
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	7,200	7,300	7,000	— 100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate.....	1,500	1,500	1,400	00	100
Services and miscellaneous (8).....	3,700	3,700	3,900	00	200
Government.....	3,500	3,400	3,300	100	200

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 850 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,336 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

(8) Same as (6) above. Also includes mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN FEB. 1962 AND FEB. 1961

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims*	
	Feb. 1962		Feb. 1961		Feb. 1962		Feb. 1961		Feb. 1962				Feb. 1961				Wk. 3-2	
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961
Anaconda	81	13	57	5	477	76	699	104	18	6	24	7	13	6	19	5	268	670
Billings	542	113	605	132	3,234	815	3,791	830	372	79	451	185	343	56	399	142	2,182	2,911
Bozeman	152	23	107	21	787	160	669	159	121	20	141	29	106	27	133	39	503	455
Butte	270	56	123	19	1,705	389	2,682	685	87	4	91	15	61	9	70	17	935	1,932
Cut Bank	89	14	74	23	495	92	454	162	27	56	83	15	23	129	152	38	287	404
Dillon	64	18	68	24	251	69	348	85	32	36	68	26	23	31	54	23	176	228
Glasgow	96	18	103	12	616	197	951	170	61	11	72	25	85	2	87	17	450	845
Glendive	61	14	59	12	293	78	350	94	46	3	49	10	44	2	46	17	235	307
Great Falls	403	86	581	147	3,040	838	3,098	927	234	69	303	94	205	183	388	46	1,783	2,162
Hamilton	65	12	49	7	586	144	685	170	22	11	33	6	17	18	35	3	282	569
Harlem	86	22	53	15	750	193	694	208	58	30	88	20	59	20	79	24	415	579
Helena	147	30	170	50	846	242	1,095	360	98	4	102	30	105	5	110	23	806	905
Kalispell	134	22	153	29	1,882	414	2,198	554	65		65	20	61	5	66	13	1,472	2,408
Lewistown	63	13	96	24	385	100	546	168	50	19	69	23	43	22	65	16	318	330
Livingston	49	8	90	23	548	137	713	166	37	9	46	10	47	3	50	14	485	609
Miles City	39	5	62	10	455	155	667	149	37	28	65	16	34	15	49	13	387	572
Missoula	407	78	410	62	1,840	472	1,396	390	143	6	149	38	112	10	122	29	995	1,418
Polson	337	45	90	44	710	157	538	158	59	5	64	17	17	2	19	7	324	528
Shelby	56	9	101	29	430	110	557	155	44	25	69	21	42	186	228	33	252	439
Sidney	64	8	34	10	379	58	397	98	22	12	34	11	20	10	30	12	279	382
Thompson Falls	48	12	37	5	371	112	368	115	23		23	11	12		12	4	288	383
Wolf Point	48	8	54	7	547	122	549	144	32	2	34	7	31	1	32	9	333	504
TOTALS.....	3,301	627	3,176	710	20,627	5,130	23,445	6,051	1,688	435	2,123	636	1,503	742	2,245	544	13,455	19,540

*Includes 596 claims of the Fed. UC program 738 same a year ago. 1,596 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb.(1) 1962	Jan.(2) 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb.(1) 1962	Jan.(2) 1962	Feb. 1961	Feb.(1) 1962	Jan.(2) 1962	Feb. 1961
All Manufacturing	\$ 96.89	\$ 95.13	\$ 95.23	38.6	37.9	38.4	2.51	2.51	2.48
Durable goods	92.13	90.04	90.96	37.3	36.6	37.9	2.47	2.46	2.40
Primary metals	106.75	103.46	99.50	40.9	40.1	39.8	2.61	2.58	2.50
Nondurable goods	105.82	104.38	99.96	40.7	40.3	39.2	2.60	2.59	2.55
Food and kindred products	88.62	87.31	86.73	42.2	40.8	41.3	2.10	2.14	2.10
All Mining	108.81	104.93	102.97	40.6	39.3	39.3	2.68	2.67	2.62
Metal mining	103.98	103.98	101.92	38.8	38.8	39.2	2.68	2.68	2.60
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	99.77	99.52	98.02						
Transportation (except railroads)	105.32	104.96	102.27						
Utilities and communication	96.13	96.08	95.76	38.3	38.9	39.9	2.51	2.47	2.40

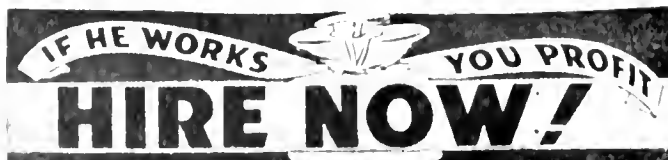
(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION
COMMISSION OF MONTANA

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